



M U S U B I

BRITISH BIRANKAI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009
Issue 43

Message from the Chairman

It was great to see so many eager, sweating faces at the Spring Course!! My hat is off to all the members of Ian Grubb's dojo for hosting such a great event on 7-8 March in Shropshire. Thank you all for being there and creating a fantastic environment for training. As a group we continue to move forward, and in discussions with the senior members, it is evident that the standard of practice continues to improve.



Shihan Mike Flynn

Next on our calendar is the British Birankai Advanced Course, scheduled for 16 May in Glasgow. As you will remember from last year, this course is open to all members 3rd Kyu and above. The focus this year will be on Conditioning the Aikido Body and Ki-no-nagare (blending).

Summer School is just around the corner, 1-7 August 2009, and will again be situated in Bangor, Wales. Chiba Sensei will be with us for the entire week, and we can all look forward to a rigorous and intense

experience which will move us further down our path.

The biggest news so far this year is the confirmation of Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba's visit to the United Kingdom in June 2010. This event is being coordinated by the five organizations affiliated to Hombu Dojo: United Kingdom Aikikai, British Aikido Federation, Scottish Aikido Federation, Komyokan Aikido Association and of course the British Birankai. Attendance at this event will be limited, and it has been arranged that until 1 September 2009, members of these five organizations will have exclusive booking priority. The website is now active, and can be accessed at www.doshu.co.uk.

In an effort to become closer to the other Hombu affiliated groups, we have invited the principal organizers of the Doshu 2010 visit from each group to our Autumn course as guest instructors. We look forward to welcoming them, sharing practice and a social evening with them and their members.☺

Sincerely

Mike Flynn

VISIT OF DOSHU MORITERU UESHIBA
18-20 JUNE 2010
WELSH INSTITUTE FOR SPORT, CARDIFF, WALES

The Doshu's first visit to the UK since he became Doshu in 1999. He will be accompanied by his son, Waka Sensei Mitsuteru Ueshiba.

Exclusive priority booking for BB members until 1 September 2009.

Further details on www.doshu.co.uk



Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba

Latest news at end April 2009:

200 confirmed bookings with approx 170 for the buffet on the Saturday evening. Capacity for the buffet is 400 and the opportunity to book for it will be removed from the website once this number is reached.

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Deadline for contributions for Summer 2009 issue: 15 June 2009



MUSUBI

BRITISH BIRANKAI NEWSLETTER



www.britishbirankai.com

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British Aikido Board

Technical Director
Shihan TK Chiba 8 Dan

BRITISH SHIHANKAI
Shihan Mike Flynn 6 Dan
Shihan Chris Mooney 6 Dan
Shihan Tony Cassells 6 Dan
Shihan Dee Chen 6 Dan

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All articles, photos (in jpeg format), poems etc
should be sent to the Editor/Assistant via our
website www.britishbirankai.com. Submission
may be edited due to space constraints.

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Special thanks to Franco.
090405

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From the Editor



Photo: Franco

Our thanks to Davinder Bath, London Aikikai,
our former Webmaster who has now passed on the mantle to Eddie
Hodgson, Rainbow Aikido Club, North East Aikikai. Davinder has
worked hard over the past few years to have our website looking profes-
sional and user friendly.

Our present Assistant Webmaster Tim Sullivan, Ei Mei Kan, Central
Aikikai is leaving the UK for the next 1-2 years due to work commitment.
Our thanks also to Tim for his input. If you are interested in helping with the
website as an assistant please contact me at deechen@aol.com.

The webmaster and assistant do a very important job as they ensure that
vital information about our organisation is kept up-to-date on our website.

I am pleased to report that Chris Howlin from Ei Mei Kan, Central Aikikai
has volunteered to help me produce Musubi. Despite our repeated request
for articles the response is not always forthcoming as we would like hence
each issue of Musubi varies between 8 or 12 pages. He has some ideas on
how to remedy this and if he comes knocking on your door please do not
turn him away empty-handed.

Please do not forget to book your place on our annual summer school in
Bangor in August and for the Doshu's visit in June 2010. ☺

Dee

Student comes full circle and returns to British Birankai

Paul Milburn returns to 'his roots'

My journey
into
British
Birankai began
around 12 years
ago with my intro-
duction to Sensei
Steve Magson,
through Sensei



Paul Milburn

Eddie Hodgson. Having come from
quite a different style it was very new
and different, though there were some
similarities. I trained hard and feel
I absorbed a great deal of Chiba
Sensei's Aikido which, unbeknownst to
me at that time, began to take root in
me and develop.

Around the time of Sensei Magson's
departure for France, I left Birankai
and began a course of Aikido which
eventually led me to the Iwama style of
Saito Sensei. I have a great respect

for this foundational style which I feel
complements my study within the BB
today, especially with weapons.

I began to realise with time, how-
ever, that an Aikidoka needs two very
important things to grow. One is a
family to belong to, and the other is
local strength. I was struggling to travel
and train and bring what I could back
to my Dojo, but was growing weary of
being a small island in the middle of
nowhere. I knew that both myself and
my Dojo needed more for our future
security and direction. This led me to
re-explore the possibility of rejoining
Birankai. I made contact with Sensei
Joe Curran and Sensei Eddie
Hodgson again and began to attend
BB courses which culminated in the
application for provisional dojo mem-
bership and attendance at Sensei's

continued on page 3

Crossing the Mat between Friend and Friendly

Tony Fairbain explains the connection



In the past eleven years I have spent more time working in a high security jail than I have on the Aikido mat. That strange statement



Tony Fairbain

stems from the links between the two. Aikido is about training through compromise yet refusing to compromise in yourself. In jail you are constantly compromising your beliefs so that you can work with people who are in many cases beginners at life. Some struggle to get past their first 'grading'. They make the same mistakes time after time causing dismay and consternation to those around them. I find myself demonstrating what I think is the right technique, only for uke to get the wrong end of the lesson and take my softness/absorption for weakness. Yet when in jail if I apply a hard lesson I am seen as unfair and uncompromising. Sometimes it's because the 'uke' is over-confident as he trained in a different culture (Dojo?) to myself and of course knows life (Aikido?) and is streetwise and won't or doesn't accept the rules of what I know as life (Aikido?). Guess what? Confusion reigns and the strongest or the more

experienced wins. And of course there are all the different metaphorical hats I wear when I am in jail or on the mat. For example: the teacher, the fool, the student, the bully, the pragmatist, the supporter, the hero and the friendly.

Note I highlighted friendly and not friend. These are completely different concepts both in jail and on the mat. Jails are dangerous places and so is practising Aikido. When you go into jail there are hundreds of people who are all there for their own reasons. However, they all want to get through their time and reach the end of their sentence in one piece. So sometimes they will present themselves as friends. On the mat a similar scenario can occur. Friends on the mat tend to give each other a hand and make sure everything goes smoothly. They do each other favours and watch out for each other. But there is danger in over familiarity. Boundaries blur and as they allow for/exploit each others' weaknesses, choreography and grooming sneak in. It all looks great on the surface, compromise abounds and Hollywood beckons.

Friendly people on the mat move in a uniquely friendly way. They are honest and sometimes they act like your worst enemy. They may stand their ground, frown, argue, scratch their

heads and generally fight you all the way to a submission. Guess who teaches you more about jail and Aikido? The man who acts like your best friend or the Norman Stanley Fletchers of this world who will trip you, cut you, hurt you, but then save you from real hurt just to teach you a lesson about life. Strangely enough these are the people who know more about Aikido than you. These are generally known as good Sensei.

Strange people Sensei/masters. They come in various guises you can usually spot them on an Aikido mat because they are at the front being 'friendly' to lower grades in many ways that do not seem in the least bit friendly. It's just an observation but someone beginning Aikido is a friend on the mat and the highest people in Aikido are friendly on the mat. This is similar to jail/life. The newly sentenced and employed man/woman who is a natural in jail gets on with simply doing their job. Prisoners tend to accept their faults and take them for who they are. The inexperienced Aikidoka gets a very similar reaction, but for very different reasons. ☹

Tony Fairbairn 1 Dan
Abbey Aikido Club, North East Aikikai

Student returns.....

continued from page 2

weapons course late last year. The highlight of the weapons course was a private audience with Sensei arranged by Sensei Curran. Sensei asked me about my original roots with the late Master Andre Nocquet 8th Dan, himself a student of O-Sensei, and said that my Aikido had "come from the source", which was very moving and reassuring for me to hear. He welcomed me to Birankai and said that I had come full circle now and he entrusted me to Sensei Joe Curran, which I personally value a great deal.

I feel that Birankai is one of the most authentic, organic and forward looking Aikido organisations in the world. Sensei's approach to Aikido is unparalleled and his philosophy of Aikido is

practical and profoundly deep. He has and continues to inspire me in my Aikido in a very personal way and has now become my direction in Aikido. In the North East especially, we are growing strong indeed and I am glad to have my Dojo a part of the BB family here. I dedicate myself now with Senseis Curran, Blackwood and Hodgson to the development of real unity in the North East.

Master Nocquet's Motto, which I have framed in my office, reads "Per Amicitiam ad firmitatem" and means "Strength through friendship". We should never forget that a strong family in and around our home Dojos, fostered by regular contact with each other, is essential to grasping this and



Chiba Sensei and Davinder Bath (right), Weapons Course, Coventry, October 2008

Milena Kremakova

to giving our students the necessary exposure to the skills and interactions necessary to develop them, both in their art and with each other. ☹

Paul Milburn
McMillan Aikido Club, North East Aikikai



It's knot always what it seems when following the basics

Wellington Tsang finds out!

"You're not pulling your saya back correctly" was the repeated criticism that the lai Batto-Ho teacher gave to me during one lai Batto-Ho lesson. He'd picked up on the fact that I could not put my laito away correctly into its scabbard. I used my left hand as he showed me and yet I still could not pull it back to the required position. It kept getting stuck in front of my left hip. The class ended with me still unable to perform 'chiburi' correctly.



Wellington Tsang

During the break, I reflected upon this and decided to ask one of the senior lai Batto-Ho teachers as to whether the way I tied my hakama made a difference. At the time, I folded the front of my hakama over my belt. He said my current way of tying my hakama was going to prevent me from moving the scabbard to its correct position. So he agreed to show me how he tied his hakama for lai Batto-Ho.

So we both took off our hakamas and began. The first problem was the knot on my white belt was at the front (I was still 1st kyu). I was to move my belt knot to the back. I dutifully moved the knot round the back onto my spine. He looked at my white belt said that I had done the belt up wrong.

My belt crossed over at a mid point in the opposite side of the circle to my knot, whereas his was flat all around. I had always tied it by finding the middle of the belt, pressing it against my belly, pressing both sides around to my spine, crossing the sides over at my spine and bringing the loose ends together to tie into a secure knot at the front. I had tied my belt this way starting with my first Gi, for over ten years beginning at Karate and Jiu Jitsu schools. I didn't know any other way to tie it.

He said that I would need this flat method of tying a belt. So I took my belt off and he got me to put one end on my right hip. Then I circled the rest

of the belt around my middle until everything was a continual loop against my middle. The final end was now on my left hip. At my belly, I put this end under and around the belt and the initial end came out from under the right side of the belt to form the two ends that I needed to complete tying the knot. I now had a white belt with a flat profile around my body.

After tying the knot and tidying away the knot ends, the knot was moved to my spine. The hakama was lifted front first, also flat against my stomach. The back of the hakama sat over the belt knot on my spine. The ties were tied to ensure that there was a free gap between hakama, belt and my keikogi. He told me that space was where my laito scabbard would go. I tested it and found that my scabbard could move easily from my centre line to a position behind my left hip.

Since then, I have not had a single comment about moving the saya incorrectly whilst performing 'chiburi'.

What has that day's experience with my white belt to do with Aikido? It is part of the Aikido path that we look at basics in all parts of our lives. A change to a seemingly unrelated basic, such as the tying of the belt,

may make a change to a student's path and progress.

I understood that a simple basic such as tying your belt can be rethought. I had been tying my belt in the crossover fashion for over ten years without ever considering it incorrect or inappropriate. Ever since then I have seen a number of simple basics that I have changed to further my Aikido:

- ☉ I tie my belt using the flat method shown to me that day. Even when I graduated to a longer black belt, I have tied it in the same fashion. I do not wrap the front of my hakama around my belt either. I fit my hakama so that I can practise lai Batto-Ho or Aikido.
- ☉ I used to use large heavy weapons, which did not fit my relaxed grip. I now use appropriately sized weapons which actually fit my hands, instead of those larger heavier ones.
- ☉ I see my white belt, my first circle in Aikido, in a new light. ☉

Wellington Tsang 1 Dan
South Manchester Aikido, North West Aikikai

Chris Howlin reports

Ei Mei Kan Christmas Course ends in 100% Success Pass

The festive season in Northfield, Birmingham began as usual last year with the Ei Mei Kan Christmas course on 6 December



Chris Howlin

2008 with guests Davinder Bath Sensei and Alexander Broll Sensei. Every year the course and party after provide an opportunity for friends and students of the Dojo to come together and celebrate the end of the year before things get too busy in the upcoming weeks. It is also a significant

event for students of Gen Sen Jyuku Dojo at the University of Warwick, where Mooney Sensei teaches twice a week. Coming at the last weekend of the first term, it is an opportunity for many of the beginner students to visit their parent Dojo for the first time. And, with so many attendees, it was a wonderful opportunity to host some gradings!

The attendance was the biggest in recent years with around forty students coming to train. As usual with courses of this size, the adjacent squash court was converted into a second training hall so some of the classes could be

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Developing the Austria Connection as a Sixth Sense

Andy Colclough enthuses about the camaraderie training in Austria



I have been attending courses in Austria for a few years now, and it is something that I really enjoy doing. Recently I attended the 6th Austrian Spring Course with Shihan Chris Mooney and Shihan Tony Cassells supported by Sensei Mark Pickering. As usual we all met at the airport. This for me is where the weekend begins, and although it means we have a long day ahead of us in terms of travelling, spirits are high and the atmosphere is relaxed. Once the bags are checked in we sit down over a drink and leave our every day lives behind and begin our week end of Aikido.



Andy Colclough

respective classes feel this, both comment at almost being at home here (Austria). This is a feeling echoed through out the whole weekend. Throughout the course the spirits are high and everyone works hard to learn and demonstrate that they are learning from all the teachers. Everyone is enjoying themselves, relaxed and in good humour. Albeit in moderation as we are there for business, you can never fully relax on the mat. But there is no doubt people are enjoying the moment.

The theme of the course revolves around connection. Making the connection with your partner or opponent, and maintaining that connection throughout the techniques application and to its completion. Connection is a word used a lot in Aikido, but that is because it is so fundamental and important without that connection you have no Aikido (I also include all our weapons work in this). Not only do you need the connection with your partner, but just as important is that connection between your upper and lower body. All this is something I am endeavouring to attain, for me this is work in progress. All of the teacher during the weekend emphasised this message. I hope that the hard work and effort put in by all resulted in a noticeable improvement in the students' ability to connect.

The connection we experience is not solely experienced just on the mat. It also applies off the mat. I can honestly say that I have met some good friends in Austria. We happen to be travelling down the same path of Aikido granted, but none the less there is a strong bond. Such connections are built up

over time through commitment and support. I must admit the odd drink or two in an appropriate watering hole or the odd bottle stashed in a room somewhere did help the process along a little. But it all started when there was a chance visit to a Dojo in England. From that point a seed was sown that developed into the situation now of this being the Sixth Austrian Spring Course.

As you may have gathered I really like travelling to Austria and training there. It is a home from home to me. It was especially nice to see Shihan Chris Mooney felt that as well. If you do get the opportunity to attend one of the courses please do. The food is great and the hosts are very welcoming. Please do also take time to have a little look round the area of Dornbirn, because if you don't you will miss some wonderful scenery (have a look at the Cocks Moors Woods website as there will be pictures there of Austria). Please bear in mind I am biased so don't take my word for it.

Undoubtedly we experienced the connection that has existed between both Shihan Chris Mooney and Shihan Tony Cassells over the last 35 years. Through their classes I hope I have at least improved a little. There is a saying that goes "How do you eat an elephant?" Answer "One bite at a time!" The road to improvement is a long one for me but hopefully an enjoyable one. I really do hope that this is not the last time for such experiences. ☺

Andy Colclough 2 Dan
Cocks Moors Woods, Central
Aikikai

Ei Mei Kan Christmas course

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split. Much of the training focused on techniques for the later gradings, with 26 candidates trying for grades from rokkyu through to nikyu and one student attempting a nidan examination. Given the number of bodies, a particular emphasis was placed upon awareness and use of space – the final class by Mooney Sensei went

through 'small' versions of familiar techniques, such as an ikkyo with one step.

The examinations came at the end of the day and all those tested were successful. Congratulations to everyone, in particular the 14 novices from the university who have now begun their path in Aikido and to Wellington Tsang of South Manchester Aikido, who gave a fine demonstration in his nidan examination.

Finally, the Dojo was treated to a miracle of water, as all the energy that had been put into the room during the day had collected on the ceiling and fell like a shower onto the lined up students below. A much needed cool down for the party that followed! ☺

Chris Howlin, 4 Kyu
Ei Mei Kan, Central Aikikai



A Celebration of Small Beginnings and Good Spirits...

Martina Swainson celebrates the achievements of the Aberdeen Dojo

The weekend of 18-19 April 2009 marked the 20th Anniversary of the, often considered, remote Dojo in Aberdeen. To those who are not



Martina Swainson

from Scotland, a place like Aberdeen, a couple of hours past Glasgow, seems like a million miles from anywhere and a place known mostly for its oil industry and its sparkling granite buildings... on the odd sunny day! However, on this particular weekend, our Dojo was happy to welcome all the people who have played a part in developing the enthusiasm and spirit evident in our Dojo and who have enabled us to continue in our practice and to help us grow.

On a personal level the anniversary course was an event that led me to reflect on the past and where we have travelled to. It also filled me with dread and excitement at the thought of organising our first major event and doing my grading along with Mark Anderson, our Sensei for the past four years.

The Dojo was set up by Aleksander Gilweski in 1989 and since then the road to 20 years has been quite a journey, of which I have had the pleasure to be part of for the past thirteen years.

I remember coming along to my first practice at the age of 19, having lost interest and seeing nothing for me in a previous martial art. My first Aikido practice was completely bewildering; I couldn't honestly say that I'd enjoyed it and in truth only initially persevered due to my naturally tenacious nature and refusal to be beaten by the complexity of a martial art! The other factor which made me return was the genuine warmth and support extended by the senior students at the time.

As time progressed I developed some understanding of the basics and felt more comfortable in my training and, with those around me in the Dojo. At that time I wasn't aware of what was happening outside of our Dojo

and to some extent, Aberdeen was fairly insular, an isolated Dojo practising within its own boundaries and largely detached from the Aikido community elsewhere. I then attended my first ever course in Cumbernauld and had the opportunity to learn from Murashige Sensei and Flynn Sensei and, practise with senior students from all over the country. This had been my first experience of being part of a wider community and played a large part in me wishing to continue in my training, it also made me want to travel and explore what was out there in terms of training and experience. Unfortunately at that time, Aberdeen felt so far away from everywhere. We rarely travelled to courses or invited others to teach us.

That said, a regular visitor north of the border was Mooney Sensei, who took an interest in our development and encouraged us to travel further afield to learn from the community around us. Visits from Mooney Sensei were always well received and provided a much needed influence for our Dojo. Each visit would inspire the students more, but still the motivation to travel was lacking. I guess there were many reasons for this as there are for lots of students today in several Dojos; fear of the unknown, financial issues, family commitments, work commitments and other issues that remain outside of our Aikido practice.

In my opinion, the strength of the Aberdeen Dojo has always lay in the commitment, drive and enthusiasm of all the students. We have historically never been students motivated by grading or status, but have arguably continued due to our enjoyment of and commitment to training. A relatively small Dojo in the far north we have maintained a core group of consistent students without whom we would not have survived, following the departure of our Sensei in 2004.

When our Sensei left, we all continued to turn up in a rather cloak and dagger way in order to preserve what had been built over the years. We were overwhelmed by the support shown to us by the wider community,

especially from Mooney Sensei, Boyle Sensei and Flynn Sensei. It was at this point that we began to change as a Dojo.

Over the past five years we have branched out and been regular attendees at courses all over the country. We have also seen the development of positive links between the Dojos in Scotland, which is such a strength for the future.

So, in the years I have been part of this Dojo which comically, as our website still says is "under construction", what have I learned? I guess as I sit here coming to terms with my own achievements as 'a small fish in a big pond' and finding it quite amazing and frightening that I, along with Mark, have become responsible for the development of the Dojo and future students in Aberdeen, I take forward the following principles – Enjoy it, commit to it, work hard, keep an open mind and body, be flexible, have respect, resolve conflicts, stay connected and seek out new learning.

As we look to the future, I would like to extend the warmest thanks to everyone who attended the Anniversary Course; old students presenting from as far as the Netherlands to neighbouring students in other Dojos in Aberdeen. I would also like to thank Mooney Sensei, Flynn Sensei, Boyle Sensei and Robinson Sensei for their instruction at the course and ongoing support.

Further to celebrating the achievements of the Aberdeen Dojo, I hope this event will go some way to putting Aberdeen on the map and we look forward to hosting lots more courses in the future. ☺

Martina Swainson, 1 Dan
SakuMeiKan, Aberdeen, Scotland
Aikikai

BB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

from the General Secretary

BB FEE GUIDELINES 2009
(from 1 January 2009)



All fees payable to BRITISH BIRANKAI

BAB INSURANCE - UPDATES April 2009

Following discussions with Perkins Slade the BAB has issued the following information regarding insurance for participants on courses run by BAB Associations:

Non BAB student without current BAB insurance is required to take out temporary membership, for the day with a BAB Association (ie the body organising the event). The Association may charge a fee for this facility to cover the actual cost of insurance and reasonable administrative costs. Details of the student are then entered on the monthly BAB returns to Perkins Slade, in the normal way. An insurance certificate is NOT issued to the student, as this might subsequently be used, by them, as documentation to erroneously show that they were in individual membership of the BAB.

Further details are available on the website:
http://www.bab.org.uk/insurance/insurance_update_2009.asp

The fee payable at BB courses will be posted on our website in due course.

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES
Fees payable by the Dojo for their members. Direct membership to BB not accepted. Renewal due on date of original registration. All membership fees to BB Registrar.

<i>New membership fees</i>	
Adult	£35
Student/unwaged/retired	£15
Junior (to 18 years)	£8

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
(Annual fee and report due 1 January to General Secretary)

Shidoi	£45
Fukushidoi	£30

GRADING FEES

Kyu test	£10
<i>(or as set and retained by dojo)</i>	
Dan test	£17.50
<i>(or as set and retained by dojo. At national courses fee is paid to BB)</i>	

Shidoi/Fukushidoi test £17.50

BIRANKAI INTERNATIONAL DAN REGISTRATION FEE *to General Secretary*

Admin cost for all grades £10

Birankai Passports issued for grades 5th kyu and above

HOMBU DAN REGISTRATION FEES *to General Secretary*

Shodan	£120
<i>(includes Hombu fee & Yudansha book)</i>	
Nidan	£110
Sandan	£160
Yondan	£210
Godan	£329
Rokudan	£400

Replacement yudansha book £20

BB Registrar: Alan Stevens
meishokan@hotmail.com
Mobile: 07837 948219

General Secretary: Dee Chen
deechen@aol.com

REMINDERS FOR BRITISH BIRANKAI NATIONAL COURSES

Lapsed Membership

Lapsed members will be surcharged an amount equivalent to the annual membership fee at all national courses. Lapsed members are not covered for insurance purposes during practice.

Lapsed qualified instructors will be surcharged an amount equivalent to the annual instructor's fee at all national courses and will not be invited to take classes.

Dan/Shidoi/Fukushidoi Gradings at Summer School

- ☉ All applications (available on our website) to the General Secretary by 12 July 2009 should include
 - a completed Application for Dan Promotion form
 - a typed essay about Aikido
 - a brief martial arts history of the applicant
 - a recommendation from the Chief Instructor
 - grading fee of £17.50 payable to British Birankai
- ☉ Shidoi/Fukushidoi re-certification testing:
 - 1 Certified teachers 50 years old and above will be exempt from re-certification
 - 2 Certified teachers under 50 years of age are requested to renew their certification according to the following schedule:
 - Shidoi/Fukushidoi ranked 4th dan or above must renew every four years
 - Fukushidoi ranked 3rd dan must renew every three years
 - Fukushidoi ranked 2nd dan must renew every two years
 - 3 Certified teachers ages 40-49 may present a demonstration in lieu of a test

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED

NOTICE-BOARD

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DOJO UPDATES

NEWLY AFFILIATED DOJOS

McMILLAN AIKIDO CLUB, NORTH EAST
AIKIKAI
Chief Instructor: Paul Milburn
paulmilburn1@live.co.uk

LONDON EAST AIKIKAI

Chief Instructor:
Stephen Beecham 5 Dan
stevieaikido@yahoo.co.uk

NEW WEBMASTER:

Eddie Hodgson
e-hodgson@sky.com

BIRANKAI PASSPORTS

All Dojos have now been sent a supply of Birankai Passports to be issued to members graded from 5 kyu. We are in the process of having a combined British Birankai and Birankai Passport printed to replenish our supply of BB membership books.

JUNIOR'S AGE LIMIT

A BB junior refers to anyone under 18 years of age and not 16 years as previously listed. This is in line with BAB guidelines.

PROMOTION: DEC 2008

GODAN

Paul Robinson, Genpu Kan,
Central Aikikai

☺ congratulations ☺ congratulations ☺

BRONZE STATUE FOR IWAMA SHRINE

Donations have been solicited for a bronze statue of O-Sensei, the Founder of Aikido to be erected on the fortieth anniversary of his death. The British Birankai together with Birankai Continental Europe and Birankai North America have joined in sending a donation to Hombu Dojo towards this statue.



British Birankai Summer School
Bangor University, North Wales
1st - 7th August 2009



T.K. Chiba Shihan
assisted by
Senior Birankai Instructors

"Ko-shin" or "Light Divine"

O'Sensei often referred to Aikido as
"The Path of Light"

The calligraphy is printed
over the Chiba family crest.

Book online at www.britishbirankai.com
For enquiries email bbsummerschool2009@gmail.com
or telephone Paul Robinson +44 (0)7989 359898



BRITISH BIRANKAI

ADVANCED COURSE
Open to members 3rd kyu and above

Instruction by
British Birankai Teaching Committee
at
Iain Nicholson Recreation Centre
147 Chryston Way
G69 9LE
Scotland

Saturday 16 MAY

registration Sat 10.30am
Practice Times
Sat 11am - 5 pm

Cost £ 25
Unwaged £ 18

Contact M Flynn, tel no 01236 631465
jubeiflynn@blueyonder.co.uk
or
S Boyle, tel no 07904 066555
Steviesaku@blueyonder.co.uk

